

Cozy Reads: a booklist

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A rainy day is the perfect opportunity to curl up with a book and spend the day getting lost in a good story. Rainy day reading is best done with stories that can take the reader to other worlds with plot-drive stories that are quick and easy to read but grand and slow in feel. The following books can be read in one sitting, best enjoyed in a cozy armchair with a snack or two!



Free clip art from <http://retrographix.com/gallery/img.php?ID=348>

Cashore, K. (2008). *Graceling*.

New York: Harcourt.

Action-packed and romantic, Cashore's *Graceling* is set in a world where selected individuals are born with extreme skills – skills that are often feared. Katsa's own "Grace" is terrifying, and while she strives to keep her secret, she finds her skill routinely exploited by her uncle – the king – for his own gain. Soon, she teams up with Po, another "Graced" individual, and together the two embark on a journey to save the kingdom from the corrupt king. Readers will enjoy getting to know the cast of characters from the Seven Kingdoms in this character-driven story. (*Fantasy, 14+*)

Grossman, L. (2009). *The magicians*. New York: Viking.

Quentin Coldwater is a classic nerdy teen – brilliant, isolated, and in love with a girl he can never have. Since his childhood, Quentin has been obsessed with the fantasy world

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of Fillory, the imaginary setting of his favourite book series. Thinking life could never be as thrilling as the adventures in Fillory, Quentin carries on his dreary existence with little hope for happiness. However, on one blustery afternoon, a magical university reveals itself to the melancholy high school senior – and offers him a chance to attend. (*Fantasy*, 16+)

Hartman, R. (2012). *Seraphina*. New York: Random House.

In the Kingdom of Goredd, a delicate relationship exists between the humans and the dragons that take human form. Although the dragons contribute to the kingdom's academic and political undertakings, the mistrust between the two realms grows after a vicious murder in the royal family. Sixteen-year-old Seraphina Dombegh, a talented musician of the court, becomes entwined in uncovering the truth behind the royal murder, including the plot to demolish the shaky peace that exists between man and dragon. Along the way, Seraphina must come to terms with her own identity and the secret she hides from those around her. (*Fantasy*, 12+)

Hirsch, J. (2011). *The eleventh plague*. New York: Scholastic Press.

A compelling post-apocalyptic tale of action and survival, *The Eleventh Plague* depicts America after most of the population has died off from a flu outbreak. Among the survivors are fifteen-year-old Stephen Quinn and his family, who now scavenge and move among the ruins in order to stay alive. In a turn of events, Stephen finds himself in Settler's Landing, where rebellious and mischievous Jenny Tan captures his attention. They play a prank that leads to chaos and war and, as a result, Stephen must make a difficult decision that will change his life. (*Dystopia*, 13+)

Mayberry, J. (2010). *Rot and ruin*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Benny Imura is about to turn fifteen, at which time he will have to find a job or risk certain death. After trying a number of different positions, he decides to apprentice under his

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zombie-hunter brother, Tom. Set in a dystopian, zombie-infested future, Benny learns that there is so much more to hunting “zoms” than simply killing the un-dead. Throw in a kick-ass, zombie-hunting “Lost Girl”, and the result is an action-packed, zombie-filled coming-of-age story. (*Horror, Science Fiction, 14+*)

Oliver, L. (2011). *Delirium*. New York: Harper.

“It has been sixty-four years since the president and the Consortium identified love as a disease, and forty-three since the scientists perfected a cure” (Oliver, 2011, p. 5).

Seventeen-year-old Lena knows first-hand how dangerous love is: it killed her mother and destroyed her family. Luckily, shortly after her eighteenth birthday, she will receive the cure, which will allow her to live a happy, safe, and ordered life, free of the complications and pain caused by love. However, three months before she is scheduled for her procedure, the unthinkable happens: she falls in love. An angst-filled, character-driven love story set within the dystopian future. (*Dystopia, 13+*)

Riggs, R. (2011). *Miss Peregrine’s home for peculiar children*. Philadelphia: PA: Quirk Books.

When Jacob Portman travels to Wales to investigate his brutally murdered grandfather’s past, he finds himself encountering characters from the 1940s living in a quarantined orphanage. The orphans are certainly peculiar, but are they also dangerous? What connection do they have to his grandfather’s past? Illustrated with vintage photographs, this creepy and eccentric tale is sure to intrigue. (*Mystery, Horror, 14+*)

Septys, R. (2013). *Out of the easy*. New York: Philomel Books.

The year is 1950. Josie Moraine dreams of escaping the New Orleans French Quarter underworld where her mother works as a prostitute. But when she finds herself in the middle of a mysterious and high profile murder investigation, Josie must fight even

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harder to escape her circumstances. Romance and mystery combine to make this slow-burning smolder with intensity. (*Historical, 14+*)

Taylor, L. (2011). *Daughter of smoke & bone*. New York: Little, Brown, & Company.

Taylor's *Daughter of Smoke & Bone* is romantic and bittersweet. Karou is an art student living in Prague, filling her notebooks with drawings of monsters, running strange errands for her family...and dealing with the fallout of her recent breakup. When she meets the handsome and mysterious Akiva, Karou finds herself probing into her family's secret past, and what she discovers is more than she had bargained for. Taylor's writing is lush and lyrical. Readers will find themselves swept up in the story's strong sense of place and its treatment of mythology. (*Fantasy, 14+*)